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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

on

Vital Statistics and Sanitary Conditions

of the

New Forest Rural District

for the Year 1951

Submitted to the Rural District Council
by

GEORGE HABGOOD, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the New Forest Rural District Council

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NEW FOREST RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1951.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the New Forest Rural District for the year ending December 1951.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	94,957
Number of persons per acre	...	...	...	.47
Number of person per acre (1931)	...	...	...	.32
Estimated Resident population	...	...	...	44,900
Estimated number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	12,520
Rateable Value 1st April, 1952...	...	...	...	£319,886
Sum represented by a penny rate (for the financial year ended March 31st, 1952)	...	...	...	£1251. 5. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, which includes members of the armed forces stationed in the area, shows an increase of 700 over 1950.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING THE CHIEF INDUSTRIES CARRIED ON IN THE AREA.

The largest area of the district is the ancient Crown Forest. Forestry is, therefore, an important industry and represents in many direct and indirect ways the occupations of the inhabitants inside the waterside parishes. There are also a considerable number of smallholders having Forest Rights, who are engaged in calf-rearing and pig-keeping. The areas bordering the Forest on the North, East and South are, except actually on the waterside, agricultural, whilst the waterside portions of the Parishes of Eling, Marchwood, Dibden and Fawley are principally industrial, which includes timber works, tar distilling, a large oil refinery at which, during the year, a large extension was completed, and other light industries. These Parishes are, therefore, mainly inhabited by industrial workers.

No occupation has had any adverse effect on public health so far as is known.

EXTRACTS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births :				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	415	359	774
Illegitimate	...	...	...	24	14	38
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				439	373	812
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate :

Per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....18.08
 Birth Rate for England and Wales.....15.5

Still Births :				M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	10	8	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2	1	3

Rate : per 1,000 total (live and still births).....25.21

Deaths :				M.	F.	Total
				275	217	492

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population...10.91
 Death Rate for England and Wales.....12.5
 Deaths from Pregnancy, Child Birth or Abortion..... 2
 Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still births)..... 2.4
 England and Wales - Maternal mortality..... 0.8

Infantile Mortality :				M.	F.	Total
------------------------------	--	--	--	----	----	-------

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

Legitimate	...	...	...	16	5	21
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births.....25.86
 Rate for England and Wales.....29.6
 Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate births.....27.13
 Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births..... Nil

				M.	F.	Total
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age				11	3	14

The Infantile Mortality rate at 25.86 continues to be good and well below that of the Country as a whole and does give an indication of the good health of the District. The rate in 1903 (earliest available statistics) was 93.5.

The Chief Causes of Death were :

Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	212
Cancer of all sites	...	...	...	...	113
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	37

No conditions of occupation or environment appear to have had a prejudicial effect upon health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

- 1 Medical Officer of Health (part time).
- 1 Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 1 Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.
- 3 Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

A moiety of the salaries of all Officers is received under the Public Health Acts and the Sanitary Officers devote the whole of their time to their duties.

Laboratory Facilities :

For chemical examinations at the Southampton Corporation Laboratory and bacteriological examinations at the Public Health Laboratories, Winchester and Southampton.

A fee is charged by the Southampton Corporation. The Public Health Laboratories Service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health and no fees are charged.

Ambulance Facilities :

Ambulance stations in the area are sited as follows:—

- Avenue Road, Brockenhurst (B.R.C.S.).....Tel. 3319
- “Haral”, Ringwood Road, Totton.....Tel. 2120
- “Ynot”, Holbury Drove, Fawley (S.J.A.B.)...Tel. 217

Infectious cases (with the exception of smallpox cases for which special arrangements are made) are carried by both Brockenhurst and Totton Ambulances.

The County Ambulance Service has other stations adjacent to the area at Christchurch, New Milton, Lymington, Romsey and Ringwood.

Nursing at Home :

Details of the General Nurses serving in the district who are able to give attention to cases at home on a Medical Certificate are:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| Boldre District..... | Miss M. H. Mitchell, Knapton Cottage, Pilley. Tel. Lymington 564. |
| Brockenhurst District..... | Miss F. D. Shiers, Nurse's Cottage, Meerut Road, Brockenhurst. Tel. 2380. |
| Dibden, Marchwood and Hythe District..... | Miss R. Wess, Three Firs, Atheling Road, Hythe. Tel. Hythe 2230. |

East Boldre and Beaulieu District.....	Miss D. F. Bassett, Memorial Cottage, Beaulieu. Tel. Beaulieu 212.
Fawley District.....	Mrs. D. Clarebout, Nurse's Bungalow, The Pentagon, Fawley. Tel. Fawley 312.
Lyndhurst District.....	Miss D. Emery, 1 Church Cottages, Emery Down. Tel. Lyndhurst 250.
Netley Marsh District.....	Miss H. M. Davies, 1 Regis Cottage, Shepherds Road, Bartley, Nr. Cadnam. Tel. Cadnam 3220.
Netley Marsh District.....	Miss J. Stubbs, Dell Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Copythorne. Tel. Cadnam 3247.
Sway District.....	Mrs. M. F. Lipscombe, The Bungalow, Station Road, Sway. Tel. Sway 314.
Totton (Midwifery).....	Mrs. King, Kingsmore, Testwood Lane, Totton. Tel. Totton 2191.
Totton (District Nurse and Midwife).....	Miss S. P. Alloway, 22, Players Crescent, Totton. Tel. Totton 3256.

Home Help Service :

The object of the Home Help Service is to relieve the Mother of her Household Duties, or assist in the continued running of the Home, according to the degree of need as substantiated by a Medical Certificate.

The Home Help Organiser in this area is - Mrs. E. Gould, 13, Stour Road, Christchurch.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :

These services are provided by the Local Health or Local Education Authority, the County Council:—

(a) Ante-Natal Clinics :

Totton..... Health Centre, Rumbridge Street,
1st Mondays at 2 p.m.

Lymington..... Health Centre, New Street.
2nd Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

(Clinics reduced from 2 a month to 1 a month during year 1951).

(b) Speech Clinics :

Brockenhurst..... British Legion Club.
Fridays at 9.30 a.m.

Christchurch..... Health Centre, Millhams Street.
Thursdays at 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

(IV) **Orthopaedic Clinics :**

Totton.....Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.

Surgeon's Clinic 3rd Tuesday, at 2 p.m. odd months.

Remedial Clinic Every Monday at 9.30 a.m. and
Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

Cases from the New Forest Rural District are also dealt with at Lymington Remedial Clinic, held at the County Council Health Centre, "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington.

(V) **Tuberculosis Clinics :**

Totton - Health Centre, Rumbridge Street.

Wednesday 9.45 a.m..... Previous Patients.

Thursday 10.0 a.m..... Previous Patients.

Thursday 3.15 p.m..... New Patients.

1.45 p.m.....A.P. Refills at South-
ampton Infectious
Diseases Hospital.

Christchurch - Health Centre, Millhams Street.

Monday 10 a.m. & 2 p.m..... Previous Patients.

Wednesday 2 p.m..... New Patients.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. (Men)..... A.P. Refills at the

Wednesday 11 a.m. (Women) Douglas House
Sanatorium.

(VI) **Maternity Accommodation :**

Maternity accommodation is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board and beds are provided at:—

Hythe Cottage Hospital, Hythe.

Fenwick Cottage Hospital, Lyndhurst.

Hill Rise Maternity Home, Lyndhurst.

Applications for the admission of normal cases for social reasons should be made to the County Medical Officer. Arrangements for the admission of abnormal cases and those requiring institutional confinement on account of other medical conditions should be made by the general practitioner obstetrician direct with the Institution concerned.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water :

No. of samples of Water taken	Results of Exam.		Remedial Work Done		Remarks
	Fit	Unfit	Piped service installed	Wells improved and water made fit	
113	76	27	22	3	Unfit wells are in hand.

The annual rainfall was above average and no complaints of water shortage were received.

Excellent progress was again maintained during the year towards the completion of the various Schemes prepared under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944, referred to in my previous Reports.

The state of progress will be more readily seen from the following:—

(a) **Under Guarantee Agreement with the Southampton Corporation.**

Parish Served	Number of dwellings provided for	Estimated Population	Length of Mains in yards	Approximate Cost £
Copythorne Netley Marsh Eling Marchwood Denny Lodge	287	1,033	13,823	15,483

Scheme completed September 1951.

(b) **Under Guarantee Agreement with the West Hampshire Water Company.**

Parish Served	Number of dwellings provided for	Estimated Population	Length of Mains in yards	Approximate Cost £
Beaulieu	334	1,002	27,465	31,777

Scheme completed in May 1951.

(c) **New Forest R.D.C. - Water purchased in bulk from the Southampton Corporation.**

Parish Served	Number of dwellings provided for	Estimated Population	Length of Mains in yards	Approximate Cost £
Bramshaw Minstead	412	1,483	27,963	42,717

Completion anticipated Spring 1953.

(d) **Minor Extensions under Guarantee Agreement Southampton Corporation and West Hants Water Company.**

Parish Served	Number of dwellings provided for	Estimated Population	Length of Mains in yards	Approximate Cost £
Lyndhurst Fawley Brockenhurst Boldre Denny Lodge Rhinefield	75	300	4,465	5,134

These extensions completed at various stages from 1949. The only remaining extension to be completed is in the Parish of Denny Lodge, involving 800 yards of 4" main to serve 14 dwellings.

The total length of mains, the population provided for and the approximate total cost under each heading and the work completed at the end of the year is:—

Total length of Mains involved.....	73,716 yds.
Population provided for.....	3,818
Total number of dwelling houses provided for...	1,108
Approximate cost.....	£95,111
Total length of mains laid to end of 1951.....	57,755 yds.
Remaining to be laid.....	15,961 yds.

The Statutory Water Undertakers have also laid some 6,000 yards of Mains, principally to the various Council Housing Estates.

It will be seen, therefore, that some 16,000 yards of Main remain to be laid in the Parish of Bramshaw which, it is anticipated, will be completed in the Spring of 1953.

Taking into consideration the advanced stage regarding the foregoing extensions and the position generally throughout the district in relation to piped water supplies as revealed in Table "A" (Page 10), there is again justification for repeating that the Council can rightly feel gratified having provided such a vital instrument to good health and a social amenity of the utmost necessity, to such a large area of their district.

ACTION IN RESPECT OF ANY FORM OF CONTAMINATION.

The district is supplied with water by two Statutory Undertakers - Southampton Corporation and the West Hampshire Water Company. The supply is constant and the quality satisfactory.

Exbury village has a piped water supply in the houses provided by the Exbury Estate. The supply is from a deep well approximately 300ft. deep, pumped to a water tower, thence by gravitation to the houses. The Beaulieu village also has a piped supply in the houses, provided by the Beaulieu Estate and in addition a supply recently provided by the West Hampshire Water Company.

The Beaulieu Estate supply is gravitational from an ancient spring known as the "Monks' Well". Ninety dwellings owned by the Estate are connected to this supply, which is constant and the quality satisfactory.

In regard to both these private supplies, samples are taken regularly by the Department from the respective sources and at various points in the distribution. Bacteriological and chemical examination have been constantly satisfactory.

Attention has again been focussed on the importance of providing piped water supplies to those houses where mains are available, and notwithstanding the persisting difficulties in acquiring water tube, it is thought that good and steady progress has again been attained.

A total of 113 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from wells and other sources of supply, of which 27 were found to be polluted. Of this 27, as a result of formal and informal action, 22 houses were connected to a Main supply, and in three cases where a Main was not available, low pressure "Metafilters" were installed with most satisfactory results.

In addition, efforts in persuading the owners of houses (where from previous examination it was known the wells were subject to pollution) along the line of the new extensions to connect to the Mains have been sustained, and despite the higher costs involved, 58 were connected during the year.

Although it is felt satisfactory progress has again been made, the higher costs involved in providing piped water supplies to dwelling houses has now reached the point where the limitation imposed in Section 138, Public Health Act 1936, whereby the Local Authority cannot recover more than £20 where they carry out the work in default, is a material obstacle in the service of Notices.

Whilst this limitation on recovery of expenses was reasonable in 1937, it is unreasonable at present day costs and adversely affects the work of the Department in providing the most essential hygienic requirement for good health.

Only in one case has the Council had to carry out the work in default, and we are perhaps more fortunate in this direction than others, but, nevertheless, the fact that the limitation is there considerably hampers our work in this direction. The

Council have taken up this matter with the Rural District Councils' Association, and it is hoped it may not be too illogical to expect some appropriate amendment to the Act in the near future.

Particulars of the number of Dwelling Houses and the number of the Population supplied from Public Water Mains.

TABLE "A".

Parish	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses connected to Mains	% No. of dwelling houses connected to Mains	Remarks
Lyndhurst ...	784	771	98	676 connected to Southampton Mains. 95 to N.F.R.D.C. Mains
Brockenhurst ...	754	729	97	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Copythorne ...	704	510	71	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Sway ...	638	557	87	West Hants Mains
Fawley ...	1,418	1,313	92	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
East Boldre ...	318	140	44	West Hants Mains
Dibden ...	965	812	85	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Marchwood ...	309	286	93	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Netley Marsh	577	374	65	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Eling ...	4,170	4,156	99	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Denny Lodge	181	35	19	Southampton Corpora- tion Mains
Boldre ...	667	499	75	West Hants Mains
Minstead ...	347	216	62	N.F.R.D.C. Mains
Bramshaw ...	203	32	15	N.F.R.D.C. Mains in course of laying
Rhinefield ...	49	28	57	West Hants Mains
Beaulieu ...	335	219	65	Partly West Hants Partly Beaulieu Est.
Exbury ...	101	66	66	Exbury Estate Mains
TOTALS ...	12,520	10,843	87%	

- (a) Total number of dwelling houses in the district.....12,520
- (b) Number of dwelling houses connected to a Main Supply.....10,843
- (c) % Number of dwelling houses connected to a Main Supply.....87%
- (d) Estimated population of the District.....44,900
- (e) Estimated No. of population provided with a Main Supply.....39,044
- (f) % Number of population provided with a Main Supply.....87%

From the foregoing it is self-evident that the Council have performed the duties imposed upon them by Section 3 of the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act 1944 admirably.

No waters were found to have any plumbo solvent action and there were no known cases of plumbism.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In this important branch of public health, here again, as in Water Supplies, progress has been sustained in providing Main Drainage Schemes.

The Scheme for sewerage part of the Parish of East Boldre providing for 43 private dwellings and a Council Estate of 60 dwellings was completed during the year.

The Hythe section of the Dibden Main Drainage Scheme was commenced and is expected to be completed in the Summer of 1952. The Dibden Purlieu Section is awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A Scheme for the Parish of Sway has been submitted to the Ministry and it is understood a Scheme for the Parish of Fawley will be submitted in the early part of 1952. In regard to the scheme for the Parish of Fawley, I am of the opinion this should be given priority as the conditions in this Parish, which is of an Urban character, are not comparable with those prevailing in the Parish of Sway.

As a result of representations to the Public Health Committee, the Council carried out an extension of the Eling Sewers involving 70 yards of 6" pipe to serve Roberts Road, Hounsdown, where previously a serious and constant nuisance arose from a defective and overflowing communal cesspit.

There have been no extensions of the existing sewers in the Parishes of Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst, nor have any works of improvement been carried out to existing Sewage Disposal Plants.

New Council Housing Estates at Fawley, Marchwood, Netley Marsh, Sway, Boldre and East Boldre have small sewage

disposal plants, and a number of private dwellings are also connected to these systems at Fawley, Marchwood and East Boldre.

Much attention and time has again been given to conversion from conservancy to water carriage in the several Parishes and as a result of formal and informal action, 26 properties were converted and the drains connected to the sewers. In one case involving two houses where action was taken under Section 44 Public Health Act 1936, due to the financial position of the owner (an elderly widow), the Council undertook the work, the cost being repaid to the Council over a period of ten years. The work involved partial building of closet compartments, provision of water closets and flushing apparatus, and the laying of drains and connecting to the public sewer at a total cost of £107.

The number of connections (other than new houses erected by the Council and Private Enterprise) made to the public sewers during the year and for the previous five years is shown in the following table:—

1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
66	73	78	75	97	85

Defective and insufficient drainage systems and sanitary accommodation has also received considerable attention and the following work carried out:—

(a) Defective drains repaired.....	22
(b) Defective and insufficient sanitary accommodation dealt with.....	11
(c) Sinks and sink waste drainage provided.....	18
(d) Defective cesspits dealt with.....	27
(e) Improvements and modifications to small Sewage disposal plants.....	3

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A number of cases were again found where sewage from cesspits and other drainage systems were discharging into streams. The persons responsible were requested to abate the nuisance. Where no public sewer is available it is extremely difficult to effect a permanent remedy in these cases. An extensive watercourse in the Parish of Eling was cleansed by the Council.

The Hampshire River Board, the responsible body under the River Boards' Act 1948, have taken samples of the effluents from the Council's Sewage Disposal Works. The results were not entirely satisfactory. The pollution of rivers and streams, particularly the latter, where dilution is extremely low and

indeed, in some during prolonged dry periods there is little dilution if any at all, gives rise to a very real and potential danger to public health, especially where the streams are used by children for paddling or swimming.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, there is little doubt that the strengthening of the law on pollution is very necessary and whilst, for many reasons, I cannot foresee any byelaws setting up a standard for effluents coming into force in the near future, every effort should be made to produce and maintain an effluent conforming to the highest standards of purity conducive to the public health. In this direction I would particularly mention the need for a close watch on the quality of the effluents from the sewage disposal plants discharging into the Bartley Water.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There has been no change in the present fortnightly collection of domestic refuse and weekly collection of trade refuse throughout the whole of the District. The service is carried out by the Council's own staff and plant, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Seven ten cubic yard Dennis side-loading vehicles, an 8 h.p. Ford Van, and 24 personnel were employed.

The issue of protective clothing has continued, each man being issued with a suit of oilskins, two suits of overalls and gumboots. Time lost due to sickness during the year would appear to compare favourably with other manual and trading activities. The employment position has been a little easier, but it is still extremely difficult to employ the right type of man for the job. The complement fluctuated during the year, but on balance was for the greater part up to full strength. It was found impracticable to employ casual labour to take the place of the men taking their annual holiday. Regarding vehicle maintenance, spares have been difficult on some occasions but, generally speaking, the vehicles are in good condition and there have been no breakdowns in service.

The disposal of refuse has continued to be on the controlled tipping principle on four sites at Marchwood, Fawley, Sway and Stoney Cross. The supply of covering material has not always been easy but, as a whole, the sites have been satisfactorily maintained. With the high ruling prices of salvage, a great deal of trouble and time has been taken up due to gypsies and other similar types digging up and sorting over the refuse after it has been covered. Despite extensive observation, they are always much too elusive.

Details of work during the year are as follows:—

No. of premises	No. of loads	Equivalent to approx. tons	Trade Refuse Agreements	Gallons of Petrol used	Mileage
12,594	3,387	10,161	77	7,744	65,412

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SALVAGE.

Salvage is collected from private dwellings at the same time as domestic refuse. All salvage, including that from business premises, is collected and dealt with by the Refuse Collectors, there being no separate organisation to deal with this work.

The prices for waste paper reached their peak in June - £13 a ton for mixed paper and £23 a ton for clean paper - and remained steady to the end of the year. Although the amount of revenue was much higher as compared with 1950, and every effort was made to increase the tonnage, the amount collected was below anticipation, due principally to the fact that business undertakings took advantage of the high prices and sold direct to the waste paper merchants. When the supply is again more than the demand and the price falls materially, quite naturally, we shall again be required to collect it.

Salvage Collected and Disposed :

Articles	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	215	17	0	23	2538	5	11
Textiles	8	6	2	21	380	13	11
Scrap Metals	5	16	0	14	21	14	3
Totals	230	0	0	2	2940	14	1

CESSPIT EMPTYING.

During the year the supervision of this service was transferred from the Engineer and Surveyor to the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The Council undertakes the cleansing of cesspits in those parts of the district where public sewers are not provided. They are cleansed free of direct charge at intervals of approximately, but not less than six months by Contract with the Hampshire Cleansing Service.

At the end of the year 2,353 properties were receiving this service at an approximate cost of £4,400 per annum.

Cleansing of cesspits on Council Housing Estates is carried out by the Council's own staff and plant, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector. A 750-gallon Dennis Emptyier and a crew of two are employed. Protective clothing is issued as in the case of other cleansing personnel. There was no loss of time due to sickness. The emptyier was off the road on a number of occasions due to mechanical breakdowns and is to have a major overhaul in 1952.

In addition to the emptying of cesspits, the emptyier has been used for desludging a number of the small sewage disposal plants at Council Housing Estates, and has been more than fully employed - overtime having to be worked to maintain the schedule of cesspit emptying.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected by the Council during the year:—

Eling	...	...	...	...	...	86
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	48
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	30
Sway	...	...	...	...	...	6
Beaulieu	...	...	...	...	...	4
Total ...						174

Number erected in 1950	162
------------------------	-----	----	-----

Number of Houses erected by Private Enterprise :—

Eling	...	...	...	...	...	15
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fawley	...	...	...	...	...	6
Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	3
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	...	1
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	4
Marchwood	1
Brockenhurst	1
Rhinefield	1
Total ...						38

Number erected in 1950	32
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Particulars of Houses owned by the District Council:—

Beaulieu	28
Boldre	52
Brockenhurst	...	...	...	...	...	104
Copythorne	...	...	...	...	...	30
Dibden	...	...	...	...	...	32
East Boldre	...	...	...	...	...	10

Particulars of Houses owned by the District Council—contd:—

Eling	...	...	...	...	427
Fawley	...	...	...	...	218
Lyndhurst	...	...	...	...	32
Marchwood	...	...	...	...	45
Netley Marsh	...	...	...	...	18
Sway	...	...	...	...	42
Total ...					1038

Number of Families in hutted accommodation at the end of the year:—

Stoney Cross Aerodrome	...	...	134
Setley Plain, Brockenhurst	...	...	93
Site 4, Beaulieu Aerodrome	...	...	32
Veals Farm Camp, Marchwood	...	...	10
Yew Tree Heath Camp	...	...	3
Total ...			272

During the year the remainder of the families from Hounsdown Camp were rehoused and the Camp returned to the War Department. The Council also expect to be able to rehouse the remainder of the families from Yew Tree and Veals Farm Camps in 1952. These Camps will then be returned to the War Department. It is unfortunate the housing situation is not able to absorb all the families now accommodated at these camps, as they were only a temporary expedient and cannot be considered satisfactory for permanent accommodation, but it appears they must be unless there is a flood of new houses to solve the housing problem as it affects the district generally.

Number of Houses erected by the Council and Private Enterprise for the years 1945-51 :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Council.</i>		<i>Private Enterprise.</i>	<i>War Destroyed Houses Rebuilt.</i>
1945	...	—	4	—
1946	...	8	62	—
1947	...	167	28	5
1948	...	127	12	—
1949	...	176	38	1
1950	...	162	32	—
1951	...	174	38	—
Totals	...	814	214	6

Grand Total.....1,034.

It will be seen that during the year the Council have rehoused in new houses 174 families and private enterprise 38. At the end of the year the number of applicants on the Council's Housing List was 1,200 - an increase of 150 over 1950. In 1947 the number was 977 and the gap between the number of houses built and the number of families requiring homes of their own is therefore widening.

Without again delving into the complexities and repercussions of this unfortunate vital health and social problem, it is axiomatic that this formidable task of the first magnitude is falling a long way short of solution. The problem is accentuated when the number of unfit houses (808) is taken into consideration. These unfit houses are inherent in the housing situation generally, and this aspect of it is likely to develop into a major issue, as it is not entirely a problem of labour and material, but also the economic factor.

Whilst it is one thing to emphasize the complexity of the problem, it is quite another matter to suggest how some improvement can be brought about, but to accept the position as inevitable and drift with it would be to evade the issue.

Suffice it to say, nevertheless, that the present conditions and facts with all their bifurcations do not allow at present and, indeed, I see little prospect of carrying out to the full the duties of dealing with unfit houses and other unhealthy home conditions imposed upon Local Authorities and their Officers of the Public Health Department by the various Acts and Regulations until there is a very considerable increase in the rate of house building.

With all the difficulties and obstacles involved every effort was made to deal with unfit houses and at the end of the year four were represented and Demolition Orders and undertakings made and accepted. The families were rehoused by the Council. 16 unfit houses have now been dealt with since 1949. Demolition Orders were made in respect of 10 - all were demolished at the end of the year and six undertakings accepted.

In dealing with unsatisfactory house conditions, in view of the position beforementioned, efforts have again been confined mainly to action under the Public Health Acts.

(I) Inspections of Dwelling Houses :

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected.....	103
(b) Number of visits and inspections made in connection therewith	502

(II) Summary of Defects remedied during year :

(a) Defective roofs repaired.....	34
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(b) Defective floors taken up and renewed or repaired.....	16
(c) Dampness abated	21
(d) Major items of disrepair (including improved lighting, ventilation and disrepair generally).....	25
(e) Other items of disrepair.....	12

New Forest Gypsies :

The Council again held several meetings during the year to consider the steps which should be taken to solve the problem of the New Forest Gypsies and formulated further proposals which are being actively pursued, but had not at the end of the year reached the stage for further consultation with the Ministry, the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District Council and the Forestry Commission, due principally, I think, to the untimely death of the Clerk (Mr. A. E. N. Ashford), who was instrumental in bringing about the proposals now under consideration.

They have, however, continued their policy of re-housing suitable families from the Compounds in hatted accommodation at Stoney Cross Aerodrome. The Housing Officer informs me that several other families from the Shave Green Compound have applied for accommodation at Stoney Cross, which will be offered to them in due course. No gypsy families have been rehoused in Council Houses during the year.

Verminous Premises :

15 dwelling houses were found to be infested with fleas and bugs. The necessary action was taken. Six Council properties were involved.

SWIMMING POOLS

The outdoor swimming pool with a capacity of approximately 45,000 gallons and filled from the mains of the Southampton Corporation at the Girl Guide Headquarters, Lyndhurst, was again in use during the summer months. It was not used so extensively as last year due to the adverse weather.

The Agreement between the Association and the County Education Authority continued and approximately 360 children from the Bartley Secondary Modern School used the pool in the months of June and July.

18 samples were taken for bacteriological and chemical examination. The bacteriological standard was not entirely unsatisfactory, but an excessive amount of organic matter was invariably present within a comparatively short time of filling.

In the absence of purification plant, bacteriological control has continued to be dependent upon the fill and empty system

and hand clorination. The chief objection to the former is, of course, the financial one, and in the latter the physical impracticability of ensuring a desirable uniform residual chlorine figure of 0.2-0.5 parts per million, aggravated by the excessive organic matter requiring a higher concentration of chlorine with its attendant chemical dangers to eyes, skin and mucous membranes.

The Staff have been most co-operative falling short of providing the delights of a purification plant, and have at the request of the Department provided a B.D.H. Comparator for checking residual chlorine. They have been instructed in its use and have carried out the advice given in regard to water change, dosage, cleansing of the pool after emptying and other relevant matters.

The treatment can only be regarded as of doubtful expedient, but the desirability of providing even a modified form of purification plant at today's cost appears to be prohibitive for a pool of this size and limited use. At present it remains a matter for close attention and frequent analyses to prevent or otherwise remedy conditions which may give rise to a nuisance prejudicial to health. The other outdoor private pool at Lyndhurst was not opened to the public.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The following Licences were issued by the District Council:—

- 10 Dealers Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 14 Dealers Licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 2 Dealers Licences for Sterilised Milk.
- 1 Dealers Licence for Accredited Milk.
- 4 Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk.
- 5 Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk.
- 1 Pasteuriser's Licence (issued on behalf of the County Council).

105 samples (an increase of 31 over 1950) of milk were taken during the year, with the following results:—

<i>Grade</i>	<i>No. of Samples. Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory.</i>		
Pasteurised	95	95	—
Ungraded (M.B. Test)...	5	4	1
Ungraded (Biological examination)	5	5	—

The number of designated licences issued by the County Council, and in force in the New Forest Rural District at the end of the year was:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	106
Accredited	...	...	...	24

The number of licences issued for the production of tuberculin tested milk shows an increase of 19 over the total in force at the end of 1950.

On October 1st, 1951, the first Order specifying areas of the Country where the use of special designation for retail sales of milk would become compulsory, came into operation. Two areas were specified and although Portsmouth, Gosport, Fareham and Havant-Waterloo are included in one of the areas, the New Forest is not so favoured and must wait for what I am afraid might be a fairly considerable period.

It has been stated that the above is an indication that the Ministry of Food intend to press ahead as quickly as circumstances allow with the abolition of the sale of raw undesignated milk to the public.

Most of the retail dairies have been kept in a fairly satisfactory manner; they are without lavish equipment and are mostly small buildings situated at the rear of or adjoining dwellings.

In the urbanised Parishes the majority of the dairies are now little more than "milk stores" - the small distributor has found it much more easy to purchase milk from large reputable wholesale firms who deliver the milk already bottled during the early morning and collect the dirty bottles in the afternoon - he is getting a fair profit, the wholesale firms are satisfied, for the time anyway, to place their milk without resorting to piracy, and the Public Health Department is encouraging the system.

It was found necessary to draw the attention of certain dairy farmers retailing milk, to the state of their delivery vehicles, mud and manure is bad enough in the farmyard, but when a substantial helping is allowed to adhere to the sides and floor of the cart or van, it is time to take offensive action.

Section 20. Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 :

A bulk sample of milk from a herd at a farm in the Parish of Denny Lodge was taken in course of retail delivery and submitted for biological examination, the result proved to be positive for myco. tuberculosis. In consultation with the Divisional Veterinary Inspector, Ministry of Agriculture, it was considered advisable to take action under the above section until clinical and other examinations of the herd were complete. A Notice was served upon the farmer prohibiting the sale of milk from the premises unless and until it had been heat treated as laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Regulations 1949. The Notice was served in December and will remain in force until a clearance certificate is given by the Divisional Veterinary Inspector.

Arrangements were made for the milk to be pasteurised. It is proposed to increase the sampling for biological examination now that facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

Two hundred and twenty-seven complaints of nuisances were received and 923 inspections and visits made in connection therewith. A number were found not justified. The following had been abated at the end of the year:—

House defects	...	...	...	...	59
Defective sanitary fittings	...	...	...	...	18
Choked drains and other drainage defects	...	...	...	...	64
Insanitary accumulations	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances from keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	2
House pests	...	...	...	...	5
Ditches and water courses	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	17
					<hr/> 179 <hr/>

Smoke Abatement :

Twenty-two observations of various undertakings were made. No statutory action was found necessary.

Tarmacadam Plant - Emission of Dust :

The screening and dust arrestment plant and water spray cyclone for drier exhaust gases has been properly maintained and there have been no complaints.

Tar Distillation :

The improvement in the reduction of obnoxious gases from the works has been maintained and no complaints have been received.

Works of this nature are registered under the Alkali, etc. Works Regulation Act, administered by Alkali, etc., Inspectors of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (previously under Ministry of Health).

Private Street Works :

Representations were made to the Public Health Committee regarding the state of a number of private streets in the district, conditions which, in my opinion, gave rise to a nuisance and were physically dangerous.

At the end of the year, thirteen streets in the Parish of Eling were made up by the County Council under the Private Street Works Act.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949
and
THE PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (THRESHING
AND DISMANTLING OF RICKS) REGULATIONS 1950.

The above Acts and Regulations are under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In carrying out the duties imposed upon the Local Authority a Staff of two are kept fully employed.

The Block Control system is carried out whenever practicable on a minor scale only owing to the number of complaints received and the amount of work arising therefrom. A great deal of time is taken up in the inspection of banks, ditches and hedgerows, which are the cause in many cases of property becoming infested. This source of infestation is given periodical inspection.

The Hampshire Agricultural Executive Committee carry out the work of disinfection on agricultural property and any infested areas found or brought to the notice of the Council are passed to their Pests Officer at Winchester.

The service charge for business property is levied on the Rateable Value of the premises, a free service being given if re-infestation occurs within six months. The number of re-treatments has been small. Private property is serviced free of direct charge. A number of major infestations have been found during the year and dealt with.

In complying with an order from the Ministry, the sewers at Eling, Lyndhurst and Brockenhurst will be serviced every other year, the results of which will be included in the next Annual Report.

All Council owned property, including Refuse Disposal Sites, Sewage Disposal Works and Camp Settlements, etc., have been inspected and serviced where necessary and are free of infestation generally. During the year 396 complaints were received and 679 premises found to be infested were treated for either Rats and/or Mice. Included in this number were 92 business premises.

The total results obtained were as follows:—

No. of Premises Treated	No. of dead picked up		Approximate Kill	
	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice
679	717	242	6661	3382

SCHOOLS.

In the district there are 25 Schools under the control of the County Education Authority and also a number of private Schools and Kindergartens. At Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, Totton and Colbury, the School premises have water carriage systems connected to the public sewers. The Exbury, Hardley and South Baddesley Schools have water carriage systems connected to disposal plants. The remaining fourteen Schools rely on conservancy methods. With the exception of Bramshaw and Minstead the Schools have piped water supply from the Mains. It is anticipated a main supply will be available for both Schools in 1952. Food hygiene and cleanliness of School Canteens and Kitchens has been of a high standard. There were no cases of illness connected with the School Meals Service during the year. In regard to sanitation, whilst appreciating the inevitable time lag and the difficulties involved in bringing about improved conditions in the old Church of England Schools, now under the control of the County Education Authority, it is hoped the improvements envisaged will be expedited, particularly in regard to washing facilities. The provision in some of these Schools is extremely inadequate and poor and could materially help in promoting the spread of bowel diseases, and, furthermore, if education in personal hygiene is to have any effect, theory is useless unless practised, but cannot be if facilities are not available.

In those Schools dependent upon conservancy, the County Authority have as a temporary measure improved the pail closets by conversion to chemical closets. This has advantages in minimising offensiveness and eliminating a medium for flies and the transmission of fly-borne diseases.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Seventy-two inspections were made for the purpose of controlling moveable dwellings and camp sites.

Two new site licences were granted providing for 25 and 4 caravans respectively. There are now 6 licensed sites in the district allowed to accommodate 149 moveable dwellings of an approved type.

Nine new dwelling licences were also granted bringing the total number to twenty-five.

The camp sites have, as a whole, been well conducted and kept in a satisfactory condition. The provision of a waste water drainage system discharging into a cesspit was commenced at one of the sites, but not completed at the end of the year. A similar system is to be provided on another site in 1952. This work is being carried out to comply with the conditions of the Licences.

It appears inevitable that with the housing situation as it is and likely to be for some time hence, the number of people living in caravans as homes will increase, and in accepting this fact a constructive attitude is therefore adopted and applied in securing sanitary conditions relevant to this type of dwelling.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Two hundred and fifty inspections were made during the year and the following work completed:—

Dirty floors cleansed.....	10
Defective floors repaired.....	2
Dirty walls cleansed and redecorated.....	18
Defective walls repaired.....	2
Dirty ceilings cleansed and redecorated.....	14
Dirty window frames, doors, etc., redecorated.....	6
Food room fittings cleaned, repaired or renewed.....	11
New covered sanitary waste bins provided.....	8
New water heaters provided and fixed.....	2
Dirty yard paving cleansed.....	2
Dirty passages cleansed and redecorated.....	1
Offensive accumulations removed.....	2
New food preparation rooms constructed.....	2
New washing accommodation provided.....	2
Clean towels and soap provided.....	1
Additional sanitary accommodation provided.....	5
Improved sanitary accommodation.....	5
Dirty sanitary accommodation cleansed and redecorated.....	6

Food Factories :

There is only one food factory; it produces pork pies, sausages, pressed meats, etc. It has steadily grown and improved, and although I cannot say that it is a model factory, it is given every attention by the Department.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 :

Byelaws for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold or intended for sale for human consumption, and in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption, were considered and adopted by the Council and were confirmed by the Ministry of Food in June. These Byelaws were based on the Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the byelaws but it is most satisfactory to have had this weapon to add to our armoury.

Clean Food Campaign :

Clean Food Campaigns have not been arranged in this area, but special and constant attention is paid to the encouragement of general cleanliness and common sense in all establishments and personnel engaged in the manufacture or sale of food for human consumption.

An Exhibition Stand was set up by the Department at the Eling Fair and Industries Exhibition held in July. The Stand attracted large numbers and literature was readily taken up. It is felt that it had a good effect.

Ice Cream :

One hundred and two premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, an increase of 24 over the number in the register last year. Four premises are registered for the purposes of manufacture or sale, although only one establishment in the district is actually manufacturing ice cream. At the beginning of the year this particular manufacturer gave a little trouble; he could not get above Grades III and IV, but after very careful vetting and an alteration in the personnel responsible for making the ice cream, the quality now rarely falls below Grade I.

During the season 213 inspections were made and 136 samples taken and submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test as recommended by the Ministry of Health. The samples were graded as follows:—

Grade I (very satisfactory).....	107
Grade II (satisfactory).....	13
Grade III (unsatisfactory).....	10
Grade IV (very unsatisfactory).....	6

The 16 samples placed in Grade III and IV (approximately 11.8%) were all taken from bulk supplies. Nine were taken from the manufacturer previously mentioned and the other 7 from 3 manufacturers and 5 vendors. Wrapped samples taken from the same vendors manufactured by the same wholesalers were placed in Grades I and II which supports the already known fact that bulk ice cream lends itself to contamination much more easily during service than wrapped and I am happy to be able to report that almost the whole of the ice cream sold in the district is now manufactured and wrapped by reputable firms.

In each case the results are sent to the manufacturers and vendors, and where Grades III and IV were indicated in ice cream manufactured outside the district, copies of the reports were sent to the Authorities concerned. This action has had profound effect in eliminating unsatisfactory producers retailing their product in the district.

No complaints were received regarding the sale of this very popular commodity. The retailers give the impression that they try to carry out the Department's wishes and follow a hygienic system of service; unfortunately, in some cases the shopkeeper's idea of cleanliness is not the same as ours. There is also the odd individual who has the urge to "get rich quick" and does not care one little bit about the quality and cleanliness of the ice cream, provided it sells at the right price and as often as possible.

It is noticeable that the "Ice Lollies" are gaining in popularity especially with the children. This particular "line" has caused a little anxiety, but I am pleased to note that slowly but surely the recognised ice cream firms are bowing to popular demand and are turning out a much improved lolly under hygienic conditions.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order 1951, made by the Minister of Food, came into operation 1st March, 1951; this Order prescribes the minimum standard of composition for ice cream. Proceedings for contravention of the standard may be instituted by the Food and Drugs Authority, which in this district is the County Council.

I am of the opinion that the Order will prove to be a further useful step in raising the general standard of quality, although it is only fair to add that much of the ice cream now being sold is already above the standards prescribed in the Order.

Licensed Premises :

Once again I am able to report that no complaints have been received with regard to the licensed premises. The general structure of the premises has been well maintained, but many of the older "houses" are under a great handicap owing to lack of space behind the bar. It is thought that a survey of all licensed premises in the district is desirable, and will be commenced in 1952.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections.....104

Slaughtering in private slaughter houses is still prohibited under the Defence Regulations; the 12 registered and 5 licensed slaughter houses in the district remained closed throughout the year.

The following foodstuffs from shops, stalls and vehicles were found to be unfit for human consumption:—

183 lbs. Imported beef.....Bone taint.

594 lbs. Home killed beef.....Bone taint.

13 lbs. Home killed beef.....Severe bruising.

9 lbs. Mutton.....	Severe bruising.
61 lbs. Sheeps plucks and heads.....	Decomposition.
3 Sweetbreads.....	Decomposition.
472 lbs. Imported cooked ham.....	Decomposition.
52 lbs. Sausages.....	Affected with mould.
2 Doz. Australian rabbits.....	Decomposition.
8 Doz. English rabbits.....	Decomposition.
26 lbs. Cooked minced meat.....	Rancid and sour.
3 Stn. Cod tongues.....	Decomposition.
41½ lbs. Imported bacon.....	Internal decomposition and mould.
152 lbs. Cheese.....	Affected with excessive mould.
12 Dutch cheeses.....	Excessive mould and fouled with dirt.
41 Tins Meat and Meat products.....	Decomposition.
44 lbs. Mincemeat.....	Fouled by rodents.
7 lbs. Apricot pulp.....	Decomposition.
160 Tins Milk.....	Decomposition.
152 Tins various foodstuffs.....	Decomposition.
72 lbs. Dates.....	Decomposition.
9 Tins Jam.....	Decomposition.
20 Tins Vegetables.....	Decomposition.
21 Tins Fish.....	Decomposition.
9 Tins Fruit.....	Decomposition.
13 Tins Soup.....	Decomposition.
1 Tin Peanut Butter.....	Decomposition.
974 Pkts. various foodstuffs.....	Damaged by fire.
106 Bottles Sauce, coffee, vinegar, etc...	Damaged by fire.
189 Tins Jam.....	Damaged by fire.
217 lbs. Biscuits, flour, dried fruit, cake sugar, fat, etc.....	Damaged by fire.
645 Tins various foodstuffs.....	Damaged by fire.

The quantity of meat condemned as being affected with bone taint is far less than that condemned in 1950 (3,430 lbs.) ; this may be attributed to improved slaughtering, storage, handling, and a very poor summer.

All condemned foodstuffs suitable for animal feeding, other than those required to be returned to the wholesaler, were collected and disposed of for that purpose at Public Institutions. Other condemned foods unsuitable for animal feeding were buried or burned.

Food and Drugs Act 1938 :

The County Council are responsible for the administration of the relevant Sections of the Act as applied to food adulteration, and I am indebted to Mr. C. O. Perry, Chief Inspector,

Weights and Measures, for the following Report on the number of samples taken in the district in the year 1951:—

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Milks	134	2
Butter and other Fats	9	—
Drugs	5	—
Sausages and other Meat Products...	8	—
Spirits	11	—
Other foods	17	—

The 134 milk samples contained an average of 3.83% of Milk Fat and 8.82% Non-Fatty Solids.

Unsatisfactory Samples :

Two samples of milk were purchased from a producer at Sway and certified to contain 5.9% and 11.3% of added water respectively.

Proceedings were taken and a fine of £10 in each case plus £5. 12. 0d. costs was imposed (Total £25. 12. 0d.).

FACTORIES.

Premises	No. in Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power	93	72	11	—
Factories without mechanical power	27	35	8	—
Totals	120	107	19	—

Cases in which defects were found :

Particulars	Number of Defects				Defects entailing Prosecution
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	8	6	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
Insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	6	5	—	2	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Lack of wholesome water supply	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	5	4	—	1	—
Total	22	17	—	3	—

15 Outworkers were employed in the district during the year.

Summary of Inspections :

Nature of Inspections							No. made
Inspection of Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	462
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	253
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	923
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	345
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	548
Food & Drugs (Food Preparing Premises, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	417
Inspection of Food	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Movable Dwellings and Camp Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Samples—							
Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Swimming Bath Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Specimens—							
In connection with investigation of infectious diseases							412
Total							4578

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951 :

This Act came into force on the 1st November, 1951. There are no business undertakings in the district coming within the scope of the Act.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 & 1951.

Two cases were dealt with under Section 47.

Case No. 1 :

On complaint from the Police, a man aged 63, a retired seaman who had apparently spent the greater part of his life on the China Coast, was found to be living alone in a dilapidated wood and corrugated iron shack situated in a thick copse. The approach was by a mud track thence through a hedge and another overgrown track through a thicket and dense undergrowth. The immediate surroundings of the shack were covered with old tins, bottles, junk of all descriptions, faecal matter and decomposing rats.

The entrance to the shack was blocked by tree branches and an old bedstead, there being no door. The interior was

very dark, the floor covered with rubbish, paper and general filth. A small fire was burning in the centre of the shack amongst some bricks, the smoke was so dense it was impossible to stay inside very long, nevertheless, the occupant was laying beside it on a heap of rubbish covered by a filthy blanket. He had been recumbent in this position for several days with a severe cold, his only companions being two rather wild looking cats.

Food had, apparently, been brought to him by some boys, but the only food which could be found was the remains of two large loaves of bread and a bottle of milk.

He was emaciated, filthy dirty and verminous, his hair long and matted and he had a beard in the same condition. His clothes consisted only of a very dirty old sports coat and filthy tattered grey flannels.

He had sustained a fractured femur as a result of a road accident some two years previously and could not walk without the aid of a crutch. I was told he left Hospital before the fracture had mended and refused further treatment.

The only relative that could be traced was a sister who refused to have anything to do with him. (Although his conversation was rational, he was unwilling to divulge or discuss personal or family matters and it was with some difficulty and after considerable time that his sister was eventually found).

In view of the insanitary conditions in which he was living, being physically incapacitated and unable to devote to himself and not receiving from others proper care and attention, I thoroughly considered the case and formed the opinion it would be in his own interests for him to be removed to a suitable Hospital, and also that it was necessary to prevent a nuisance to other persons. Every effort was therefore made to persuade him to enter Hospital voluntarily. He refused persistently stating - "Where he was he had his liberty and did not wish to lose it". He was visited by one of the Department and also the County Welfare Officer each day, but remained adamant in his refusal to be removed voluntarily.

A report was therefore made in accordance with the Act and an application and complaint made to the Justices. The case was heard on the 2nd February and an Order made for his removal and detention for three months at the Ashurst Hospital.

Armed with a twelve-bore shot gun, threatening to shoot, he remained firm in his attempt to retain his liberty. Some persuasion resulted in his removal to the beforementioned Hospital, where he remained only a comparatively short time before being certified and transferred to a Mental Hospital.

Case No. 2 :

This man aged 49 was removed by Court Order to the Moor-green Hospital on 9th February, 1950 (reported upon in my Annual Report for 1950), where he was detained for three months. It was not very long after his return home - an old thatched cottage where he lived alone - that he again reverted to his former mode of living and a recurrence of his complaint - severe ulceration of both legs.

Follow up visits were made - the only way entrance could be gained was by arranging for a sister who lived some twenty miles away to visit him on a pre-arranged day to enable an inspection to be made. Every endeavour was made to rehabilitate him and encourage him to have medical treatment. His sister also did her best to this end but he did not respond. He deteriorated steadily, and again became filthy and verminous, and the conditions inside the cottage insanitary and verminous. He lived in a small dark kitchen where he also slept in an arm-chair. The ulcerated condition of his legs, aggravated by non-existent personal cleanliness and refusal to have medical attention rendered him immobile.

In consultation with his doctor, and in view of the insanitary conditions under which he was living, and having again become physically incapacitated and unable to devote to himself and not receiving from others proper care and attention, we were of the opinion he should again, in his own interests, be removed to a suitable Hospital.

A report was made to the Council in accordance with the Act and a joint application and complaint was made to a Justice under Section 47 as amended by Section 1 (1) of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951. An Order was made for his removal to the Lymington Hospital for a period of three weeks.

Further applications were made for an extension of his detention up to nine weeks. At the end of this period it was considered inadvisable to discharge him to his home, and after consultation with the Hospital and Welfare Authorities, he was considered suitable for Part III accommodation and accordingly transferred and has become a satisfactory inmate.

One other case was under observation but not considered one for action under the Act.

THE PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Parish	Population (Estimated)	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis		Polio- myelitis	O. Neo- natorum	Erys- ipelas	Measles	Whoop. Cough.	Dysen- tery	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Puerp- eral Pyrexia	Food Poison- ing	Ac.Pneu- monia	Typhoid Fever	Para- typhoid Fever	Totals
				P.	NP.													
Beaulieu ...	1,172	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	9
Boldre ...	2,334	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Bramshaw ...	707	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Brockenhurst ...	2,639	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Copythorne ...	2,464	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	16	3	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	28
Denny Lodge ...	533	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Dibden ...	3,377	2	—	4	—	—	1	1	20	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
East Boldre ...	1,113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Eling ...	14,595	5	—	21	—	—	1	—	369	82	12	—	—	1	4	1	—	496
Exbury ..	353	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Fawley ...	4,963	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	16	30	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	52
Lyndhurst ...	2,744	9	—	2	1	—	—	—	31	5	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	56
Marchwood ...	1,081	1	—	3	—	—	—	1	29	11	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	47
Minstead ...	1,214	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Netley Marsh ...	2,019	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	93	31	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	130
Rhinefield ...	171	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Sway ...	2,233	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	22	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	43
Totals ...	43,712	19	—	40	7	1	3	2	612	230	14	1	8	3	12	1	—	953

Notifiable Cases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year :

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	19	4	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) ...	1	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	—
Whooping Cough	230	4	—
Measles	612	10	—
Dysentery	14	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	8	8	—
Food Poisoning	3	1	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia	12	—	12
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—
Totals ...	906	32	12

As in 1949 (when there were 614 cases), measles were again prevalent from the beginning of the year and continued throughout the year.

The number of cases of whooping cough is the highest since this disease was made notifiable in 1940. Commencing in the early part of the year, it continued until December.

The case of typhoid fever was ambulatory, the onset taking place in Maderia.

The case of poliomyelitis was non-paralytic, a girl aged ten years. She made an uninterrupted recovery.

The fourteen cases of dysentery involved nine families. The source of infection was unrecognised. Familial infection in some cases resulted from contact with an infected family. Multiple cases occurred in some households despite advice on personal hygiene and so forth. The distribution of the cases were unrelated to any water or food supply infection.

For the fourth successive year no case of diphtheria has occurred.

FOOD POISONING.

Only three cases of food poisoning were notified during the year - 14 less than 1950. The causal organism was identified as salmonella typhi murium.

Bacteriological examination of suspected food, home made cake, containing sponge cake, yielded a moderate growth of the organism.

Further sampling of untouched sponge cakes yielded no growth of salmonella organisms. Follow up with the manufacturers yielded negative results. In the two other single cases no vehicle of infection was revealed.

The prevention of food contamination has again been given the importance and significance it demands.

Routine inspections of all food premises both retail and wholesale have been maintained, and the personal contact with employers and employees on the aspect of the manufacture, handling, and storage of food has also been satisfactory.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the year the work has been continued and 388 children under five years of age and 48 children between 5 and 15 years received the complete treatment. It will be seen from the table below that the number of treatments under 1 year of age show an increase - 59 treatments being completed in 1951 as against 3 in 1950. In my Report for 1950 I referred to the very low number of booster treatments given to children of school age and mentioned that a campaign to increase this number considerably was to be introduced in 1951. This campaign proved most successful, 2,210 children being treated at Clinics held at the Schools and 682 children receiving treatment at their Doctors' Surgeries. The total of 2,802 treatments as against 51 during 1950 is, therefore, most gratifying, and the success of the whole campaign is due in large measure to the co-operation of the Head Teachers of the Schools in the district, which was always so readily forthcoming.

The success of immunisation is reflected in the fact that for the fourth successive year no case of Diphtheria has been notified in this district.

Statistical Details :

Number of children at 31st December, 1951 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935).

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total Under 15
Age at 31/12/51 i.e. born in year	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1942- 1946	1937- 1941	
N'ber Immunised	59	451	531	569	640	2,573	2,210	7,033
Estimated mid-year child population 1951	Children under 5 3,845				Children 5 - 14 6,355			

Percentage of children immunised under 5.....58.5%
Percentage of children immunised 5-15.....75.2%

There was a small decrease in the total number of children who received primary treatment during the year - 436 as compared with 463 in 1950, and although as beforementioned the number of children under one year of age who received treatment increased, the position is not entirely satisfactory.

It is essential that to prevent a return of diphtheria outbreaks, the level of immunisation must not be allowed to decline - on the contrary - there must be an incline. It must not be assumed that because there have been no cases of diphtheria in the district in the past four years that the disease has virtually disappeared. This happy position is also often misunderstood by the general public as implying absolute elimination rather than elimination conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation.

Further, as the occurrence of the disease diminishes, fewer and fewer parents have any direct knowledge, let alone first hand experience of diphtheria, which is apt to make them dangerously unmindful of the disease or leads them mistakenly to believe that it has almost been got rid of.

Sustained efforts and publicity are, therefore, essential if parents are to be helped to realise that this disease is still a deadly threat, and to be persuaded to have their children immunised and, more essentially, to do so before attaining the age of one year. To this end an exhibition stand was set up by the Department at the Eling Fair and Industries Exhibition held at Totton in July. The Stand attracted a large number of people and appropriate literature was readily taken up. Other forms of publicity were also adopted through the medium of the local Press.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1951 :—

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	3	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	3	3	1	2	1	2	1	—
35	...	...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	4	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	...	...	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	and	upwards	2	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	...		20	20	3	4	5	2	1	—

Comparability Table of the Number and Rate per 1,000 of the Population of New Cases and Deaths from Tuberculosis for the Years 1936 - 1951 :—

Year	Population	New Cases		Deaths	New Cases Rate per 1,000 Pop.	Deaths Rate per 1,000 Pop.
		Pulm.	Non- Pulm.			
1936	35,050	18	10	17	0.8	0.5
1937	36,130	21	2	14	0.6	0.4
1938	36,660	13	5	24	0.5	0.6
1939	37,780	17	1	14	0.4	0.3
1940	38,100	27	3	17	0.8	0.4
1941	40,420	39	6	28	1.1	0.7
1942	40,010	24	7	19	0.8	0.5
1943	38,740	37	7	13	1.1	0.3
1944	38,720	18	9	42	0.7	1.1
1945	37,510	25	1	18	0.6	0.4
1946	39,130	25	5	14	0.7	0.3
1947	40,070	36	4	14	1.0	0.3
1948	41,200	30	6	13	0.8	0.3
1949	41,480	26	4	15	0.7	0.3
1950	44,200	34	13	12	1.1	0.3
1951	44,900	40	7	7	1.0	0.1

The reason for the increase in the notified cases is due to the improvement in diagnosis owing to the greatly increased use of X-Ray. Cases are now consequently treated at a much earlier stage in the disease while they are still curable.

This is also reflected in the reduction in the number of deaths.

Mass Radiography Survey :

The Mass X-Ray Unit was in operation in the district in the month of October and Sessions were held at Totton and Hythe. The Sessions arranged for Lyndhurst had, unfortunately, to be postponed until a relief for the Medical Director had been obtained.

At Totton 800 persons of all age groups were examined of whom two were found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis.

At Hythe 974 persons of all age groups were examined of whom two were also found to be suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. HABGOOD,
Medical Officer of Health.

